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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

NFAC #2430-79

10 May 1979

National Intelligence Officers

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment

FROM:
National Intelligence Officer for Near East and
South Asia

SUBJECT: SCC Meeting on Middle East Security

1. Action Requested: None. For your information to prepare for the SCC meeting at 1530 hours, Friday, 11 May.

2. Background: Several weeks ago Dr. Brzezinski scheduled an SCC meeting ". . . to review security, diplomatic, and arms control issues touching on US national interests and regional stability in the Middle East." His proposed discussion paper is shown at the tab labelled "Agenda." Brzezinski intends to schedule follow-on PRC meetings to discuss various aspects of this broad regional issue.

3. I felt that the Brzezinski "agenda" was too narrowly focused on military aspects of our Middle East policy and on 20 April suggested to the DCI that he might choose to suggest an alternative agenda to Brzezinski. This agenda is shown at the tab labelled "CIA Suggested Agenda." Since I have heard nothing back from the DCI on this issue, I assume that he did not choose to raise this alternative agenda with Brzezinski. I continue to believe, however, that SCC and subsequent PRC discussions need to focus more on the subversion and particularly the internal upheaval threats discussed in that alternative agenda.

4. Since the four issues cited in the Brzezinski agenda are likely to be the points of discussion at the SCC meeting, I have asked OPA to prepare talking points for your possible use during that discussion (Tab A).

5. If Brzezinski turns to you at the beginning of the meeting for an "update on the current situation in the Middle East," Tab B includes talking points (I do not consider this likely, however).

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6. Issues: I anticipate that requirements for several intelligence papers might be levied on us at this SCC as "information gaps" are discovered in the course of discussions. For example, attached at Tab C is a copy of General Tighe's request (received on 8 May) for a Middle East Regional Estimate. I am in the process of preparing a suggested DCI response to this request, but for your background let me briefly review our NIE/IIM production plan on the Middle East over the next several months:



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b. The Impact of Recent Changes in the Middle East. We shall be recommending to the DCI that we draft an IIM discussing the Tighe issue of how events have changed things in the region and how we should view those events. This will be a long-term project, requiring careful attention to its structure and drafting. It should be an open-ended project, the target date for which will have to be slipped as we get additional high priority ad hoc projects requiring use of some of the same resources (e.g., anticipated voluminous requirements to support Ambassador Strauss in the West Bank autonomy negotiations). In any case, I do not expect such a complex and important IIM to be available for distribution before August or September.

c. Iraq NIE. A coordination meeting of the NFIB representatives is scheduled for 22 May. Unless serious substantive disagreements are uncovered at that meeting, I anticipate the estimate being ready for NFIB in mid-June.

7. Background Reading: An excellent Rand study on the impact of Arab income disparities on the likelihood of military conflict is attached at Tab D.

8. I shall accompany you to the SCC meeting.



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DDCI attended
w/ NIO/NSA

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SCC - Middle East Security

Friday, 11 May, 1530-1700

NIO/NESA memo

Agenda - Brzezinski memo and discussion paper (13 April)

CIA suggested agenda (prepared by NIO/NESA)

TAB

- A Talking Points on Brzezinski agenda prepared by OPA
- B Talking Points: Current Middle East Situation Update
- C Tighe Letter: Proposal for Middle East Regional Estimate
- D Rand report prepared for D/Net Assessment/OSD:
"Inter-Arab Conflict Contingencies and the Gap
Between the Arab Rich and Poor"